



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update April 24, 2020

Friends,

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. I wanted to give you a brief update on some of the latest developments related to coronavirus and the County's response. My regular monthly newsletter will come out next week with another update and information on other County issues.

Status of COVID-19 in Loudoun, Healthcare & Testing

According to the official numbers released today by the Virginia Department Health, there are 529 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Loudoun County. Eleven individuals have died from the virus in Loudoun. Virginia now has 11,529 confirmed cases with 410 deaths. We currently have 67 hospitalized in our two Loudoun hospitals. That number has increased since my last update, but there are still plenty of ICU beds and ventilators available at both Inova Loudoun and StoneSprings Hospital.

I've seen some questions about Loudoun's (and Virginia's) relatively low testing rate. This is directly related to the number of individuals who meet the

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stringent criteria for testing. I have been asking questions about this topic and based on what I've seen, Loudoun's numbers for hospitalizations, ICU beds, and fatalities are in line with the number of tests that have been administered. For instance, Prince William has more than twice as many positive cases as Loudoun, which indicates significantly more tests have been given. However, they also have 58% more hospitalized patients and 55% more fatalities, which are all consistent.

PPE

The major development here is that if you wish to help the County provide PPE to our frontline personnel and Loudoun-based healthcare providers but you don't have any to donate yourself, you can now make a financial contribution to help offset the costs. All major credit cards and PayPal can be used for online donations at loudoun.gov/ppe. Checks with "COVID-19 Donations" in the memo line may be sent to the Loudoun County Treasurer's Office, located at PO Box 347, Leesburg, VA 20178.

If you do have access to PPE and can donate it, please visit loudoun.gov/ppe. We need surgical masks, N95 respirators, disposable gloves, face shields, coveralls, gloves, hand sanitizer, and monetary donations. The County is not able to accept homemade equipment but will accept equipment that is opened and unused. Loudoun-based healthcare providers and facilities can request PPE at the same link.

A reminder that you can now donate PPE in South Riding: a drop-off location is at the Dulles South Recreation and Community Center, located at 24950 Riding Center Drive in South Riding. It is operating Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. A tent is located in the front parking lot of the center with a sign identifying the PPE donation site.

This is in addition to the Leesburg drop-off location at 751 Miller Drive, which operates Monday through

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Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Blue signs on Miller Drive and in the parking lot will guide individuals to the drop-off location.

Also, a reminder that the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has implemented a program to pick up and deliver prescriptions from pharmacies to vulnerable residents at private residences. Residents will have to prepay for their prescriptions and confirm that their pharmacies will allow for pickup by someone other than the resident. You can request the service by calling 703-777-1021, which is a 24/7 LCSO line.

Governor Northam's Executive Orders

The Governor has taken the following actions this week:

- Extended the current ban on elective surgeries by one week, until May 1;
- Extended the closure of DMV public-facing offices by two weeks, until May 11;
- Extended Directive Seven, which closed Virginia's 75 DMV offices and its mobile units to the public and extended the validity of driver's licenses and vehicle credentials that were due to expire, until July 31; and
- Expanded Directive Eight, directing the Virginia State Police to suspend enforcement of the time period in which new Virginia residents must get a driver's license or register their vehicles, the expiration of temporary license plates, and the time period in which temporary residents may operate vehicles with out-of-state plates until July 31.

Non-essential businesses in the state remain closed until May 8. LCSO has local legal authority to enforce this order. Businesses affected include:

- Theaters, performing arts centers, concert venues, museums, and other indoor entertainment centers;
- fitness centers, gymnasiums, recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, indoor exercise facilities;
- Beauty salons, barber shops, spas, massage parlors, tanning salons, tattoo shops, and any other location

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where personal care or personal grooming services are performed that would not allow compliance with social distancing guidelines to remain six feet apart;

- Racetracks and historic horse racing facilities;
- Bowling alleys, skating rinks, arcades, amusement parks, trampoline parks, fairs, arts and craft facilities, aquariums, zoos, escape rooms, indoor shooting ranges, public and private social clubs, and all other places of indoor public amusement.

Furthermore, dining and congregation areas in food service establishments must remain closed. Social gatherings of ten or more people are still banned. Essential businesses may remain open if they are implementing social distancing protocols.

If a resident of Loudoun County observes a potential violation, they are encouraged to call the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office non-emergency number at 703-777-1021.

Community Help

As reported last week, residents who were current in their rent payments as of March 30 and who now need help paying rent because of employment impacts due to COVID-19 may contact the County's Information and Referral program at 703-777-0420 for information on the Rental Assistance Program. Applicants will need related financial and rent documents.

The Board of Supervisors has allocated \$150,000 in additional funding for organizations that provide emergency food assistance in our community. Donations to Loudoun Hunger can be made in person at 750 Miller Drive SE in Leesburg or via loudounhunger.org/donate-now. Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry can be made in person at 24757 Arcola Mills Drive on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

Loudoun's other services also remain available. During this time of high anxiety, resources are available for those who are suffering. Please contact Loudoun

County's Mental Health Department if you are struggling. Furthermore, our Department of Family Services exists as a resource for those who have been displaced or otherwise need help during this time. They can be reached at 703-777-0353.

For information on the operating status of County Departments and the Court system, visit www.loudoun.gov/temporaryclosures.

Metro

As you know, I serve as one of Virginia's two representatives on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Board of Directors. The Board has been very busy lately, with 13 meetings since February 27 as we manage our budget and the pandemic response.

From this week's meeting, I wanted to share that Metro will be shutting down all rail service west of Ballston this summer as part of the Orange Line platform reconstruction project. Previously, Silver Line service was to remain operational and pass through those stations without stopping.

Due to new safety protocols on the construction sites at the stations, WMATA staff now believes that keeping Silver Line service operational would be difficult. In addition, we have known that Silver Line service would need to be disrupted to complete the tie-in between the Phase 1 and 2 computer systems. That work will now be accomplished this summer during the shutdown.

Metro will be running shuttle buses from Silver Line stations, and there are contingency plans to scale up those shuttles if ridership necessitates. Right now, the Silver Line is operating at less than 5% of its normal ridership, and we believe that those numbers will not climb quickly.

Economic Concerns

Over 21,800 of our neighbors in Loudoun have now filed for unemployment since the pandemic began.

On Tuesday evening, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved \$1 million in grant funding for a new COVID-19 Business Interruption Fund to support Loudoun businesses throughout the County impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. The Loudoun County Economic Development Authority added \$250,000 to this fund yesterday. The fund is intended to help businesses with 3-100 employees. The fund will open for applications on April 29 and close on May 2, but businesses are encouraged to test their ability to submit in advance. For eligibility requirements and the application form, please visit LoudounBusinessFund.org.

Facebook recently announced the launch of a \$100 million Small Business Grants Program designed to help communities where Facebook already has a business presence. Given the company's enormous investment in Loudoun's Data Center Alley, Facebook listed Ashburn (and surrounding areas) as an eligible territory for businesses to apply. Learn more [here](#).

The Department of Economic Development has hosted virtual job fairs and remains engaged with our business community to try to help during this incredibly difficult time. I know there are frustrations with the SBA process for receiving assistance, and now the program has run out of money, but our team is still talking to businesses and helping them access the various forms of assistance. DED has set up a webpage [here](#) with resources including financial resources for local small businesses affected by COVID-19. There is also a list of helpful webinars and local companies that are providing special opportunities for consumers during the crisis. I also encourage businesses to watch Executive Director Buddy Rizer's [message](#) to the business community.

The Department of Economic Development has reinstated last year's successful "Take Loudoun Home" initiative, this time with an emphasis on supporting

local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. One great component of the initiative is the [Loudoun Made, Loudoun Grown Marketplace](#) - a digital e-commerce platform that allows users to support local farms. Furthermore, DED has compiled a [list](#) of over 200 businesses that residents can consult in order to support local businesses during this time.

Final Thoughts

We continue to appreciate everyone's cooperation during this challenging time. Today, Governor Northam outlined some of the criteria he is evaluating before he believes that the Commonwealth can begin to reopen. This includes a downward trend in new cases for at least 14 days, decreased hospitalizations for 14 days, increased testing capacity to about 10,000 tests a day, and enough hospital beds and PPE to be sure that everyone who needs those things can get them.

We certainly aren't there yet. I completely understand the frustration that some of our citizens have about being "shut down" and the desire to "liberate." But doing so too early could make things much worse in the long run. The reality is that while the disease hits the elderly and vulnerable hardest, it still can make younger and healthier people quite sick, and we've seen those cases in our region.

Have a good, relaxing weekend, stay safe, and as always, feel free to [contact](#) my office if you need any assistance.

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Sent by matt.letourneau@loudoun.gov in collaboration with



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